

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 239671
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 PM-05 INR-07
INRE-00 PA-01 /042 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DNJOHNSON:DJW
APPROVED BY EUR:WLUERS
AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER
EUR/EE - MR. ANDREWS
EUR/P - MR. GEHRON
-----063868 051734Z /41
O 051726Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YO, US

SUBJECT: PRESS STORY ON YUGOSLAV TANK TRANSFER

1. THE WASHINGTON STAR (OCTOBER 4) CARRIES A STORY BY STAFF WRITER HENRY BRADSHER DISCLOSING THE UNAUTHORIZED YUGOSLAV TANK TRANSFER TO ETHIOPIA (CONTENTS SEPTTEL).
2. BRADSHER CALLED THE DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 3 TO CONFIRM THE STORY, WHICH HE ALREADY HAD FROM OTHER SOURCES. DEPARTMENT DID NOT RESPOND BUT THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, AMBASSADOR EAGLEBURGER, AND YUGOSLAV ASSISTANT FOREIGN SECRETARY BERNARDIC ON OCTOBER 3.
3. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED FOR THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING:
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BEGIN TEXT:

Q: THERE IS A STORY IN THE OCTOBER 4 WASHINGTON STAR THAT THE YUGOSLAVS TRANSFERRED SOME U.S.-SUPPLIED TANKS TO ETHIOPIA. CAN YOU COMMENT?

A: YES. IT IS CORRECT THAT EARLY THIS YEAR APPROXIMATELY 70 OBSOLETE TANKS, PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT UNDER THE MAP TO THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA IN THE EARLY 1950'S, WERE TRANSFERRED TO ETHIOPIA.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA ON THIS SUBJECT, AND CONSIDERS THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

Q: HAS THERE BEEN A VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT?

A: YES, AND WE PROTESTED THE VIOLATION IN THE STRONGEST TERMS. WE FOLLOWED THIS UP WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA AND WE ARE NOW SATISFIED THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. I SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THIS HAS BEEN THE ONLY SUCH EPISODE. THE YUGOSLAVS OTHERWISE HAVE METICULOUSLY FULFILLED OUR AGREEMENTS.

Q: HAS THE CONGRESS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THIS VIOLATION?

A: YES.

Q: HAS THE CONGRESS INDICATED THAT IT INTENDS TO PURSUE THE MATTER?

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A: NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE

Q: HOW DID WE FIND OUT ABOUT THIS MATTER?

A: I'M SORRY; I CANNOT GO BEYOND WHAT I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q: DO YOU EXPECT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN TO BRING UP THE MATTER DURING HIS VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA?

A: NO. AS I HAVE SAID, WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE MATTER IS CLOSED.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE CHARGES MADE BY FORMER AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN.

A: NO. (NOTE: AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN MARCH IN FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE AND WE SAID AT THAT TIME WE WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.)

Q: HAS THE ADMINISTRATION RECENTLY DECIDED TO SELL MORE

WEAPONS TO YUGOSLAVIA?

A: OUR POLICY OF SUPPORTING YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS ONE OF LONGSTANDING. AS
A PART OF THAT POLICY WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME HAD A
MODEST MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. CHRISTOPHER

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PAGE 01 STATE 239671
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:AF/E:KPGARLAND:JJ

APPROVED BY:AF/E:RPOST

-----027210 201912Z /70

R 200351Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239671

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 239671 SENT ACTION BELGRADE INFO
ZAGREB OCT 05.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239671

E.O. 11652: GDS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PLANS, GROUND VEHICLES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE239671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DNJOHNSON:DJW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770363-0466
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771091/aaaaczfm.tel
Line Count: 246
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1025519
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS STORY ON YUGOSLAV TANK TRANSFER
TAGS: MASS, YO, US
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67f8f236-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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